

Sermon

To begin with let me offer a prayer: Dear Lord, please protect us from Hindu Morons and boring Buddhists, from dried-up Jewish mummies, Christian necrophiliacs, and Muslim fanatics, from atheist know-it-alls, Marxist shit worshippers and laissez faire thieves, in short, protect us from all dogmatic proselytizers, and while you're at it, protect us from yourself. Amen.

Now that that's over I can get down to the real points of this sermon, Politics. That's right! I'm tired of being a plain old everyday musical minister. I want to represent San Francisco in the U.S. Congress. Try to think of it as Mort Linkletter's House Party. In addition to throwing parties I will introduce my proposal for Calendar reform. Few Americans realize how hopelessly out-of-date our calendar is. Nor do they realize how many benefits to society can result from Calendar reform. Our present calendar dates back to 1582 when it was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII. Right there it starts to sound suspicious. Actually Britain and her American colonies didn't adopt Gregory's calendar right away. Something about damped heretics and bloody papists. But along about 1752 we started using the new calendar because all of Europe had switched to it. Except of course the Russians. They thought the Pope was a Communist. They just kept using the old calendar which had been introduced by Julius Caesar. Now there was a Roman. Only when the Communists took over Russia did they switch to the Pope's calendar. Makes you think. Well,

anyway, back to the present. Now why would anyone want to change this glorious Papal calendar we use? How about these reasons: we could create millions of jobs, we could eliminate millions of dollars of waste, and most important of all we could have 21 more weekends every year. Let me explain how this can be done. A calendar measures time by the movement of planets and moons. The basic unit is the day, which is the time it takes for the Earth to revolve once. In the time it takes to travel around the sun the Earth revolves $365\frac{1}{4}$ times. That's why any solar calendar has 365 days in an average year. Ancient cultures like the Egyptians and the Aztecs, who worshipped the sun, made the first solar calendars. There are also lunar calendars developed by moon worshipping peoples like the ancient Semites. The moon takes 29 days to go through a complete cycle of phases. This is the origin of the month. A week of seven days is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a month. Twelve lunar months have 348 days altogether, so in order to keep in step with the sun & the seasons every couple or three years you have to add an extra month. Julius Caesar found one way to solve that problem. He made the months longer so they totalled 365 days, and fit with the seasons instead of the moon. It still lost one day every four years though, and by 1582 it was way out of whack. Pope Gregory's calendar is much neater. You only have to add an extra day every four years, and that keeps you in step with the sun. Okay, so that's it. Why do we need a new calendar? Well, it has to

do with another holdover from Lunar calendars. That's the seven day week. Seven does not divide evenly into 365. And that is why Dec. 20 falls on a Sunday this year, on a Monday in 1982, on a Tuesday in 1983, and so on down the road. You can't use last year's calendar this year, it's got the weekdays all wrong. What would happen if you designed a completely solar calendar? Well, let's see. You could forget about the 7 day lunar week and use a five day week. That would mean exactly 73 weeks in a year. You could have 12 months, each with 30 days and one 5 day week left over. Call it New Year's week. Since weekends are 2 days long, the work week would be three days. Forget about Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. All you'd have to know is the date and you'd automatically know what day of the week it is. Any dates ending in 4, 5, 9, or 0 are weekends, and the rest are weekdays. Every year's calendar would be the same as any other; leap years would have 6 days for New Year's week instead of 5. Now how would this calendar bring about all those wonderful things I mentioned back when you were still listening? First of all, new jobs. Well, some unions are already suggesting that a 4 days out of 7 work week would mean 8 million new jobs. If that is true then working 3 days out of 5 would mean 7.6 million new jobs. That's almost as many people as are unemployed under Reagan. Second, the calendar reform would eliminate the immense waste of needing new calendars printed for every year. Before calendar manufacturers get alarmed I should point out that people will still use calendars as appointment books.

In fact, calendar companies will benefit because they won't be stuck with unusable inventories at the end of every year. Now we come to the main benefit of calendar reform. With 73 weeks a year instead of approximately 52 we will be faced with at least 21 more weekends. Just think, that's 42 more days off, 42 more chances to party! Of course political parties are the least fun kind of party so if you want Calendar Reform to happen you'll have to register to vote or reregister as an Independent. Then you'll have to get to the polls in Nov. 1982 and vote. Remember, a vote for Mort Shapiro is a vote for fun.

And now, on with the wedding.